

## LUKE CARSON'S PRAYER UPDATE – December 2023

### Prisons and Resettlement Team



I want to start by saying a big thanks for all your prayers, support and encouraging words so far this year and for taking the time to read my final prayer letter of 2023. It's a time to reflect and look back, but also one of the busiest times of the year for our team. Not only are we involved in quite a few carol services and Christmas events, but we are not slowing down with our regular schedule of ministry activities both inside and outside of prison until Christmas. We also have a number of men we are working with getting ready for release or court in December. We would value your prayers for these men because some might get released right before Christmas to instability, uncertainty and temptation, and others might face another Christmas in prison which will of course lead to disappointment. There has been so much to be thankful for in 2023. God has sustained the work and although it has been tough at times, we are still persevering to share the gospel in prison and support men when they get released.

#### PLEASE PRAY:

Give thanks for the group of men in prison who made a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time this year. We've seen a dramatic change in some of them as they begin this new life. One man in particular has not only detoxed from drugs, but also methadone, has started a Bible study on his wing and wants to learn how to be an evangelist. Pray that all these positive changes will continue for him when he leaves prison. Pray for the others to grow in their newfound faith.

Pray for all the men we know who have recently been shipped out to other establishments. Some of them keep in touch, some we never hear from again. I'm grateful that I get to hear from a handful of them who tell us they are still going strong in their faith and engaging with chaplaincy wherever they are. Pray that they would keep picking up their Bibles and turning to God in prayer each day.



We've recently had our largest ever group do the Difference course in Pentonville. It's a course that uses encounters with Jesus and real-life testimonies to help Christians learn to navigate disagreement and conflict. This course has opened up some very real and difficult conversations, sometimes causing people to shut down or react with anger. But it has been powerful to allow the gospel into topics men in prison don't normally open up about. Pray that the men would reflect deeply on what has been discussed and allow Jesus into difficult situations.

Give thanks that we've seen a lot of prayers answered in our Friday morning discipleship group. We have seen men get secure jobs and places to live, we've seen family members come to faith and we've seen improvements in broken relationships. One of the best things has been how committed people have been coming along each week to study the Bible together and support each other through tough times. Pray that this continues into next year and that faith will grow as they see God at work.

Pray for J and M who are in prison awaiting their parole hearings. It's been a long time coming and it is very complex for them, but we are hoping they will get out early next year and be able to move on with their lives. Pray for all the people involved, from probation officers, parole board, solicitors, and the men themselves, that justice would be done, and God would take care of their futures.

Pray for A who got out of prison recently. He wants to leave his old life behind, to stop using drugs and to get reconnected with his family. Sadly, there is temptation and people trying to stop him from achieving this everywhere he turns. Pray he would stay safe, would make good decisions, and find strength in God to walk forward every day.

Please pray for our preparation for the LCM Winter Conference that is happening at the end of January. Our aim is to equip churches across London who work with homeless and marginalised individuals. The theme for the day is 'hope and purpose'. We will have a lot of different guest speakers and sessions looking at how to genuinely help and empower people. Pray for a good turnout and that everything would go well on the day.

Pray for our team and our volunteers, that we would all have a restful break after Christmas. Many people have given out so much this year to make the prisons and resettlement ministry function and we are so grateful for them. Pray that everyone can come back next year full of energy and compassion!

Thank you.

Luke

12/12/2023

#### PARTNER WITH ME SHARING JESUS IN LONDON

This ministry is possible only by God's grace and through the prayers and financial gifts of those who partner with us, I would appreciate your support which is vital for mission in London. Regular gifts are especially helpful as they keep ministry sustainable. If you would like to become a financial partner and support mission in London, please give online at [www.lcm.org.uk/donate](http://www.lcm.org.uk/donate) or get in touch with our Donor Care Team [SRelations@lcm.org.uk](mailto:SRelations@lcm.org.uk) or call 020 7234 3585 to make a single or regular gift. Please let this team know if you would like to make your gift in support of this ministry and please remember to mention my name – I would be very grateful for your support.

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